

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SEOUL 06381 251000Z

15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 ACDA-19 AID-20 DRC-01 SAJ-01 IGA-02

EB-11 /159 W

----- 008943

R 250834Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6120

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SEOUL 6381

CINCPAC FOR AMBASSADOR SNEIDER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MILI, KS, US

SUBJ: PRESS REACTION ON SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING (SCM)

SUMMARY: TOP STORY IN SEPT 24 AND 25 PRESS WAS SCM.
MAIN THEMES WERE RECONCILIATION OF REPORTED DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN ROK-US VIEWS ON SECURITY THREAT AND TWO YEAR
DELAY IN COMPLETION ARMED FORCES MODERNIZATION PLAN.
EDITORIALS WERE CRITICAL OF TREND IN US TO UNDERESTIMATE
NORTH KOREAN THREAT. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESS REPORTS THAT FIRST DAY SCM SESSION CHIEFLY
DEVOTED TO EVALUATION COMMUNIST THREAT TO ROK. DEPSECDEF
CLEMENTS QUOTED IN ARRIVAL STATEMENT AS SAYING ASIA AS
WHOLE MOVING TOWARD STABILITY IN SPITE EXISTENCE OF OLD
ANTAGONISMS. SEC CLEMENTS REPORTED AS CITING GROWTH
ROK ECONOMY, PRESENCE OF UNC FORCES IN KOREA, AND
ROK-US MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY AS MAJOR FACTORS
PREVENTING MILITARY PROVOCATION FROM NORTH.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SEOUL 06381 251000Z

2. DEFENSE MINISTER SUH REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZED

INCREASING NORTH KOREAN THREAT CONTENDING THAT MODERNIZATION NORTH'S MILITARY HAD RESULTED IN IMBALANCE AFFECTING SECURITY OF JAPAN AND US AS WELL AS ROK. PRESS REPORTS THAT DIFFERENCES IN THREAT EVALUATION LARGELY RECONCILED IN FIRST DAY'S SESSION AND THAT NO MAJOR DIFFERENCES EXIST. U.S. SOURCES QUOTED AS DESCRIBING SECURITY SITUATION AS "TENSE" DUE TO NORTH KOREA'S IMPROVED MILITARY CAPABILITIES.

3. MINISTER SUH REPORTEDLY CALLED FOR PROMPT COMPLETION MOD PLAN. "INFORMED U.S. SOURCES" ARE QUOTED AS STATING THAT COMPLETION MODERNIZATION PROGRAM WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL 1977 AND THAT CREDIT WILL BE SUBSTITUTED FOR GRANT AID IN LINE WITH TREND IN US ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. US AND ROK REPORTEDLY AGREED THAT MOD PROGRAM SHOULD BE COMPLETED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE THEMES VERNACULAR PRESS EMPHASIZED AGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND ROK ON NEED TO DEVELOP MODERN DEFENSE INDUSTRY IN KOREA.

5. OTHER ITEMS UNDER DISCUSSION REPORTEDLY WERE NORTH KOREAN USE OF JAPAN AS BASE FOR "SUBVERSIVE" ACTIVITIES IN ROK AND CLARIFICATION THAT 1954 ROK-US MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY IS BASIS FOR US MILITARY PRESENCE IN KOREA INDEPENDENT OF UNC STATUS.

6. EDITORIAL COMMENT WAS CRITICAL OF INCREASING TENDENCY IN US TO VIEW KOREAN SITUATION ONLY IN CONTEXT GREAT POWER DETANTE AND THUS TO UNDERESTIMATE THREAT TO ROK FROM A NORTH KOREA STILL INTENT ON UNIFICATION BY FORCE. SEPT 24 HANKUK ILBO AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE KOREA TIMES CITED NORTH'S WESTERN ISLANDS PROVOCATIONS, SINKING OF FISHING BOATS AND POLICE PATROL BOAT, AND ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT PARK AS EVIDENCE OF INCREASING BELLIGERENCE BY NORTH KOREA. MORE GENERALLY, EDITORIALS CALLED ON SCM TO REACH AGREEMENT ON:

- AUTOMATIC US MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CASE OF AN "INCIDENT."
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SEOUL 06381 251000Z

- U.S. ASSURANCE NOT TO WITHDRAW OR REDUCE FORCES IN KOREA
- QUICK IMPLEMENTATION OF MODERNIZATION PLAN
- U.S. ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT ROK DEFENSE INDUSTRY

7. PRO-GOVERNMENT KYONGHYANG SINMUN WROTE SEPT 25 THAT US MILITARY ASSISTANCE IS TO MAINTAIN BALANCE ON KOREAN PENINSULA AND SHOULD NOT BE LINKED

TO DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS.

ERICSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY, PRESS COMMENTS, MEETINGS, MILITARY PLANS, MILITARY AGREEMENTS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEOUL06381
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740269-1075
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740915/aaaaamfu.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REACTION ON SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING (SCM) SUMMARY: TOP STORY IN SEPT 24 AND 25 PRESS WAS SCM.
TAGS: MARR, MILI, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005